

### REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and following remarks, reconsideration and further examination are requested.

The Examiner rejected claims 20-27 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ishihara. The Examiner rejected claim 28 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ishihara. And, claims 29-44 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Accordingly, without acquiescing to the appropriateness of the prior art rejections issued by the Examiner, and solely to further advance prosecution of this application, by the current amendment, claims 20, 22-29 and 34 have been cancelled, claims 37 and 42 have been rewritten in independent form, claims 21, 30, 33 and 35 have been amended, and claim 45 has been added.

The following table is provided for the Examiner's convenience to show how the currently pending claims correspond to allowable claims 29-44 of the previous response.

| Currently pending claims | Allowable claims 29-44 |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| 21                       | 29                     |
| 30                       | 30                     |
| 31                       | 31                     |
| 32                       | 32                     |
| 33                       | 33                     |
| 35                       | 35                     |
| 36                       | 36                     |
| 37                       | 37                     |
| 38                       | 38                     |
| 39                       | 39                     |
| 40                       | 40                     |
| 41                       | 41                     |

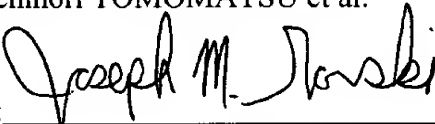
|    |    |
|----|----|
| 42 | 42 |
| 43 | 43 |
| 44 | 44 |
| 45 | 34 |

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and an early Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

If after reviewing this Amendment, the Examiner believes that any issues remain which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative by telephone to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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November 25, 2003